

California Weather-Hydro Conditions during April 2011

As of May 1, 2011, statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 135 percent of average to date; runoff, 130 percent of average to date; snow water equivalent, 185 percent of average for the date (145 percent of the April 1 average); and reservoir storage, 110 percent of average for the date. Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff observed through April 30, 2011 was about 16.5 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 121 percent of average. For comparison, on April 30, 2010, the observed Sacramento River Region unimpaired runoff through that date was about 9.9 MAF, or about 72 percent of average.

In contrast to March, April was relatively dry. On May 1, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 64.4 inches, which is about 141 percent of the seasonal average to date and 129 percent of an average water year (50.0 inches). During April, the total precipitation for the 8-Stations was 3.2 inches, which is about 81 percent of the monthly average. Last year on May 1, the seasonal total for the 8-Stations was 48.7 inches, or about 107 percent of average for the date.

On May 1, the San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index Water Year total was 57.7 inches, which is about 155 percent of the seasonal average to date and 141 percent of an average water year (40.8 inches). During April, the total precipitation for the 5-Stations was 1.7 inches, or about 49 percent of the monthly average. Last year on May 1, the seasonal total for the 5-Stations to date was 41.9 inches, or about 113 percent of average for the date.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 04/30/2011 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
City	Jul 1 to Date 2010 - 2011 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2009 - 2010 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg "Water Year" Jul 1 to Jun 30 2010 - 2011
Eureka	42.41	118	38.69	108	111
Redding	30.92	99	29.17	94	92
Sacramento	21.46	125	19.99	116	120
San Francisco	21.02	107	20.70	106	105
Fresno	15.26	144	12.15	115	136
Bakersfield	10.02	163	6.83	111	154
Los Angeles	17.30	135	12.35	96	132
San Diego	12.23	117	10.52	100	114

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 04/30/2011								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	2,314	2,049	113	2,448	95	---	134
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	4,266	3,974	107	4,552	94	-167	286
Lake Oroville	Feather	3,305	2,939	112	3,538	93	15	233
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	884	760	116	966	92	-12	82
Folsom Lake	American	751	730	103	977	77	-52	226
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,986	1,482	134	2,420	82	-240	434
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,584	1,470	108	2,030	78	-70	446
Lake McClure	Merced	689	612	113	1,025	67	33	336
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	229	365	63	520	44	3	291
Pine Flat Res	Kings	663	610	109	1,000	66	3	337
Isabella	Kern	319	224	142	568	56	-42	249
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	2,026	1,861	109	2,039	99	---	13

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) long-range, 1-month precipitation outlook for May 2011, issued April 30, 2011, suggests above average rainfall for the northwestern corner of California. No tendency for above or below average rainfall is suggested for most of Northern and Central California. Below average rainfall is suggested for the south and southeastern parts of the State.